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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/091,898	03/06/2002	John R. Shuey	12903US01	9175

7590 11/26/2003

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EXAMINER

GILMAN, ALEXANDER

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 11/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/091,898

Applicant(s)

SHUEY ET AL.

Examiner

Alexander Gilman

Art Unit

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MW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-9,11-16 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,10 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 13, 15, and 16, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application EP 0,848,456, inventor Model et al).

With regard to claims 1, 9, and 16, Model et al discloses an electrical connector assembly comprising:

a CPA (86) including a first beam (104) a latch locking element (a free end of 104) and a second beam (90, 92) including CPA retention element (116, col. 3, line 54);

a plug (first) housing (36);

a header (second) housing (12);

a latch (retention) assembly (60) including

a first housing retention feature (72, 114);

a CPA retention feature (84; col. 3, line 54);

a locking contact surface (the bottom surface of 74);

a second housing retention feature (26, 34, 120) cooperating with the first housing retention feature (66, 68, 72, 114);

said latch (retention) assembly being movable between latched and unlatched positions. (being movable with respect to 62, 64);

a CPA mounting assembly (56, 58).

With regard to claims 3, 11, and 18, Model et al disclose a raised surface (106) of the CPA locking element which communicates with the locking contact surface and the second surface (the vertical surface of 72 contacting with 32 when in the second position) of the retention assembly.

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With regard to claims 5 and 13, Model et al disclose

a blocking surface (the vertical surface of 80) which prevents said CPA from being moved from said unmated position to said mated position, and said header housing retention feature (26, 34, 120) includes a CPA contacting surface (120).

With regard to claim 6, 7, and 14, Model et al disclose CPA side retention features (102)

CPA mounting assembly is a slot (82).

With regard to claims 8 and 15, Model et al discloses a CPA finger rest (88) and a latch assembly finger rest .

2. Claims ^{4, 12,} 1 and 16, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application EP 0,721,234; inventor Gladd et al).

With regard to claims 1, 9, and 16, Gladd et al disclose an electrical connector assembly comprising:

a CPA (34) including a first beam (145) a latch locking element (148) and a second beam (144)

including CPA retention element (144a, 144b);

a plug (first) housing (14);

a header (second) housing (16);

a latch (retention) assembly (54) including

a first housing retention feature (130);

a CPA retention feature (124);

a locking contact surface (126);

a second housing retention feature (132) cooperating with the first housing retention feature (130);

said latch (retention) assembly being movable between latched and unlatched positions;

a CPA mounting assembly (122).

With regard to claims 4 and 12, Gladd et al disclose a retention member (54) with the first housing retention feature (130) and the CPA retention feature (124).

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 10, 17 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

No prior art has been found to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter.

Specifically, none of the prior art of record discloses the combination of the limitations presented including the locking elements underlying locking contact surfaces being disposed on at least two arms (claims 2, 10, 17).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Gilman whose telephone number is (703) 305-0847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.

11/24/2003

Alex Gilman

**ALEXANDER GILMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**